Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)   A method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system, comprising the steps of:

requesting an address definition from a second device to a first device;

returning the address definition to the second device from the first device;

obtaining a corresponding predetermined rule definition for the address definition to generate a new address;

automatically generating a new address definition based upon the corresponding predetermined rule definition at the second addressdevice; and

returning the newly generated address definition from the second device address to the first device.

2. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 1 wherein the addresses include e-mail addresses, document folders, telephone number and fax numbers.

3. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 1 wherein the first device is an existing user account management unit for user account information.

4. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 1 wherein the second device is an address maintenance unit that corresponds to the existing user account management unit for managing address information.

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5. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 4 wherein the address maintenance unit manages delivery methods by adding a new delivery method.

6. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 5 wherein the new delivery method is specified in the rule definition.

7. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 6 wherein the rule definition further includes an ID value, a Source value, a Condition value, a Name Generation Method value, and a Type Generation Method value.

8. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 4 wherein the address maintenance unit manages delivery methods by deleting an existing delivery method.

9. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 4 wherein the address maintenance unit updates the address information based upon the user account information.

10. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 1 wherein said generating the new address definition is performed prior to said requesting the address definition.

11. (original) The method of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 1 wherein the address definition each has a unique ID and further comprises additional steps of:

   determining whether or not an ID already exists;

   storing the newly generated address if the ID does not exist; and

replacing information with the newly generated address if the ID exists.

12. (previously amended)   A system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system, comprising:

a third device sending a request for an address definition for use with a predetermined operation;

a second device connected to said third device for receiving the request for the address definition and sending the request for the address definition; and

a first device connected to said second device for returning the address definition to said second device in response to the address definition request, said first device further including a address maintenance unit for maintaining address information; wherein said second device obtaining a corresponding predetermined rule definition for the address definition to generate a new address and automatically generating a new address definition based upon the corresponding predetermined rule definition, said second device returning the newly generated address definition to said third device.

13. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 12 wherein said address maintenance unit manages e-mail addresses, document folders, telephone number and fax numbers.

14. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 12 wherein said second device includes an existing user account management unit for managing existing user account information.

15. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 14 wherein said address maintenance unit manages the address information for the existing user account information.

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16. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 15 wherein the address maintenance unit manages delivery methods by adding a new delivery method.

17. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 15 wherein the address maintenance unit manages delivery methods by deleting an existing delivery method.

18. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 16 wherein the address maintenance unit additionally manages an ID value, a Source value, a Condition value, a Name Generation Method value, and a Type Generation Method value.

19. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 15 wherein the address maintenance unit updates the address information based upon the user account information.

20. (original) The system for flexibly managing addresses for a communication system according to claim 12 wherein the address maintenance unit maintains an unique ID for the address definition and further determines whether or not an ID already exists, the address maintenance unit storing the newly generated address if the ID does not exist, the address maintenance unit replacing information with the newly generated address if the ID exists.

21. (previously amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions for performing the tasks of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system, the computer executable instructions comprising the steps of:

        requesting an address definition from a second device to a first device;

        returning the address definition to the second device from the first device;

obtaining a corresponding predetermined rule definition for the address definition to generate a new address;

automatically generating a new address definition based upon the corresponding predetermined rule definition at the second device; and

returning the newly generated address definition from the second address to the first device.

22. (previously amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions for performing the tasks of flexibly managing addresses for a communication system, the computer executable instructions comprising the steps of:

requesting an address definition from a second device to a first device;

returning the address definition to the second device from the first device;

obtaining a corresponding predetermined rule definition for the address definition to generate a new address;

automatically generating a new address definition based upon the corresponding predetermined rule definition at the second device;

returning the newly generated address definition from the second address to the first device, the address definition each has a unique ID;

determining whether or not an ID already exists;

storing the newly generated address if the ID does not exist; and

replacing information with the newly generated address if the ID exists.